

precisely pinpointed and the separate centres in the central grey matter are labelled. Details of symptomatology are often carefully explained on anatomical lines as in the account of tabes dorsalis and syringomyelia. The illustrations are of a high order.

W H MCMENEMEY

An Outline of Psychiatry

by Frank Fish MB MRCP DPM

pp 270 32s 6d

Bristol: John Wright 1964

This is a distinctive and enjoyable book. The number of short textbooks on psychiatry steadily grows, but this is a welcome addition. Professor Fish has aimed at a larger comprehensiveness than is usually attempted. A special feature is a potted version of psychoanalytic theory, which takes its place alongside physiological, social and other clinical contributions. As might be expected, the complexity of the subject defies this degree of compression, but it does provide the synoptic view which some believe the undergraduate should have.

The chapter on history is exceptionally good, and there is a very full glossary, although some of the definitions are a little unusual (e.g. Affect: a sudden accentuation of emotion . . .).

Inevitably, when so much is squeezed into such small compass, there is opportunity for a wide range of criticism. For example, German words are too often used when English ones would do, and too scant attention is given to such an important condition as anorexia nervosa. The author promotes his favourite authorities and his own therapeutic preferences, and he usually does this with a dogmatic and even provocative gusto which makes it clear that his personal view is being expressed. But not always. Sometimes one is left in doubt about the origin of certain views, or without sufficient guidance on their relative degree of acceptance.

Nevertheless, this book conveys the general impression that psychiatry is a branch of medicine with a large established body of knowledge, with plenty of discipline and not too much doubt. This may flatter psychiatry, but junior readers will be stimulated and many senior readers should be refreshed.

J J FLEMINGER

Orthodontics in General Dental Practice

by Gordon C Dickson

BCHD(Leeds) FDS DOrth RCS(Eng)

2nd ed pp ix+350 illustrated 45s

London: Pitman Medical 1964

The changes from the first edition of this book are few and small, most of them clearly improvements. The largest of all is a dramatic reduction of price which will be welcomed by all. In spite of

this the quality of presentation remains undiminished.

The general plan of the book is basically arranged, as before, in the form of directions to be followed as treatment evolves. This has created small anomalies such as the discussion of wire ligaturing technique before the description of the twin wire arch for which it is used. It is advisable, therefore, for the reader to have some previous knowledge of the subject. This need is particularly emphasized by the meagre seven pages devoted to extractions in orthodontics. The view may be taken that important decisions on the question of extractions should be referred to a consultant, but there is no hint of this in the text or the introduction.

A larger part of the text is factual and such opinions as are expressed are well considered. As with the first, this second edition can be recommended as a sound book for the general dental practitioner who wishes to increase the scope of orthodontics in his practice.

B C LEIGHTON

Cyclophosphamide (Endoxana)

An Account based on the Proceedings of a

Symposium held at the Royal College of

Surgeons of England, 4 October 1963

(sponsored by Ward, Blenkinsop & Co Ltd)

edited by G Hamilton Fairley DM MRCP

and J M Simister MB BChir

pp xi+200 illustrated 45s

Bristol: John Wright 1964

This book is well edited and clearly presented, the tables and figures are simple and there is a very complete bibliography for the drug as well as a good subject index.

The articles consist of observations on the effect of cyclophosphamide on a wide variety of tumours including lymphosarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, carcinoma of the ovary and bronchus; there is also a chapter on its immunosuppressive effects. Unfortunately no direct comparison of cyclophosphamide with any other alkylating agent is reported here nor is its place in relation to radiotherapy clearly defined.

In his foreword Mr Victor Riddell writes: 'Although over eight hundred papers relating to cyclophosphamide have been published in the world's literature since Arnold and his colleagues announced the synthesis of the compound in 1958, the true clinical value of the drug is still not precisely known.' This statement is still true despite the publication of this symposium. However, the book contains a large number of observations on the beneficial and toxic effects of this agent and will be useful to those working in the field of cancer chemotherapy.

EVE WILTSHAW